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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the participants in the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan and the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the situation in Tajikistan, held in Moscow on 26 January 1995, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement on Tajikistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

JOINT STATEMENT ON TAJIKISTAN

At their meeting held in Moscow on 26 January 1995, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan and the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan discussed the situation in Tajikistan and its surrounding areas, as well as the situation along the Tajik-Afghan portion of the border of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Expressing the conviction that there were no alternatives to a peaceful and political settlement of the Tajik conflict, they stated that their countries would make every effort to promote national reconciliation.

Concern was expressed at the threat of a breakdown in the inter-Tajik negotiating process carried out under the auspices of the United Nations as a result of the opposition's refusal to implement the agreements concluded earlier. Commending the desire of the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan to pursue a dialogue with the opposition, the participants called upon the latter to adopt a constructive approach as well and to resume talks in Moscow with the Government of Tajikistan without any prior conditions.

The parties expressed deep alarm at the continuing attempts by the opposition to destabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border through armed attacks against border guards which had recently been intensified and had assumed a particularly cruel character. They expressed the intention of stepping up joint efforts to ensure the defence of the Commonwealth's southern borders, especially the Tajik-Afghan portion, which was in the interest of all Commonwealth States.

The participants in the meeting condemned the escalation of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border, calling for an end to them and for strict observance of the provisions of the Agreement of 17 September 1994 on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country for the Duration of the Talks.

They deemed it essential for the two Tajik parties to reach agreement as soon as possible on extending that Agreement. After emphasizing the importance of improving the cease-fire verification mechanism, the foreign-policy chiefs of the five countries welcomed the establishment, in accordance with Security Council resolution 968 (1994), of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, and expressed support for a substantial increase in its personnel.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan, which provided contingents to the CIS Collective Peace-keeping Forces, supported the initiative put forth in the letter from the President of Tajikistan to the Secretary-General of the United Nations of having the Organization participate in settling the conflict in Tajikistan. In particular, they called upon the United Nations to take further steps to establish a mediation mission and to deploy, on the basis of

the CIS Collective Peace-keeping Forces already in place, a full-scale United Nations peace-keeping operation with appropriate financing.

The participants in the meeting called upon the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Afghan military-political groups to take steps to prevent Afghan territory from being used for the launching of armed actions against Tajikistan.

The senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan, supporting the efforts of the leadership of Tajikistan to carry out democratic reforms, stressed the special importance in that connection of the forthcoming parliamentary elections and the need for them to be held in accordance with democratic norms, on a multiparty basis, and to ensure the widest possible participation of the various political forces.

Expressing their readiness to continue their economic assistance to Tajikistan, the parties called upon the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the Tajik people in the extremely difficult times which they were experiencing.

The participants in the meeting expressed support for the question of joint steps to strengthen security on the Tajik-Afghan border being taken up at the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth.

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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my report of 25 January to the Security Council on the problem of security in the Rwandese refugee camps (S/1995/65). In paragraphs 37 and 38 of the report, I indicated, inter alia, that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would follow up with the Government of Zaire on the discussions held by my Special Representative for Rwanda, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, with a view to concluding appropriate arrangements to enhance security in the camps, in the framework of UNHCR's mandate for refugee protection and humanitarian assistance. I also mentioned that UNHCR had dispatched to Kinshasa for this purpose a Special Envoy for Rwanda and Burundi and that I would keep the Security Council informed of progress made in this regard.

In this connection, I should like to advise the members of the Council that, on 27 January 1995, the Zairian Ministers of Defence and Justice and the UNHCR Special Envoy signed an aide-memoire outlining specific measures aimed at improving the security situation in the camps. Under this agreement, the Government of Zaire is to deploy 1,500 experienced military and police security personnel to the camps in the Goma region, north of Lake Kivu, and in the Bukavu and Uvira regions, south of Lake Kivu. These personnel will assist in the maintenance of law and order in the camps; take measures to prevent violence against and intimidation of refugees; provide protection for relief workers and for the storage and delivery of humanitarian assistance; and escort to the border of Rwanda those refugees who have voluntarily chosen to return to their homes. In accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) would provide assistance in escorting the repatriated refugees to their home communities. The Government of Zaire has assured UNHCR of its full cooperation, at both the national and the local levels, in this endeavour. It has agreed to develop its concept of operations in cooperation with UNHCR, and to put in place mechanisms that would ensure full consultation with UNHCR on all matters related to security in the camps.

UNHCR, for its part, will establish a liaison support group, composed of experienced security advisers, who will be deployed at its field offices in Goma and Bukavu. These personnel will ensure liaison between UNHCR and the

commanders of the Zairian security units. They will also provide technical advice to the Zairian units on measures to enhance security in the camps. To the extent that voluntary contributions are made available, UNHCR will provide to the local security units some financial and logistic support, including transportation and communication equipment. The provision of this assistance will be managed through the UNHCR Liaison Support Group.

It is expected that the implementation of the programme will begin immediately. While UNHCR will provide resources to initiate the programme, it is estimated that the first phase of this programme would last five months, from February to June, and that it would cost approximately $13 million, for which UNHCR will seek contributions from Member States, either in cash or in kind. Thereafter, resource requirements will be reviewed every three months and additional contributions required will be sought from Member States.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my hope that Member States will contribute generously to this programme, through UNHCR, so that it can be implemented in an effective manner and thereby create conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of the refugees to Rwanda. I also hope that the international community will provide the resources needed to strengthen the efforts undertaken by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, also in cooperation with UNHCR, to ensure adequate security in the refugee camps located in that country. UNAMIR will coordinate closely with UNHCR to facilitate the repatriation process, and my Special Representative for Rwanda will continue to have overall responsibility for all matters relating to the efforts of the United Nations system to assist in the restoration of peace and stability in that country.

I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI